

Executive Registry  
76-8483/A

22 JUL 1976

~~org 1 Presbyterian~~  
Church of U.S.

org 1 Missionaries  
(orig under org 1 Presby.)

Buechan, Philip  
@A1.01 Colby, Wm.

Mr. William P. Thompson  
Stated Clerk  
The United Presbyterian Church  
1201 Interchurch Center  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10027

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of July 1 and the text of the "Statement on Central Intelligence Agency Contacts with American Missionaries and Foreign Clergy" adopted by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church.

Over the years, the Central Intelligence Agency has had relationships with individuals in many walks of American life. These relationships have reflected the desire of Americans to help their country, were maintained with the clear intent of furthering the Agency's foreign intelligence mission, and have not been aimed at improperly influencing any American institution.

Responding to genuine concern which has been expressed about CIA relations with missionaries and clergy, and in order to eliminate even the appearance of possible impropriety, on February 11 of this year I issued a statement to the effect that the CIA has no paid or contractual relationship with any American clergyman or missionary, and that this practice will be continued as a matter of policy. In other words, the Agency does not now nor will it in the future use American churchmen for intelligence purposes.

I believe, however, that any American citizen has the right to volunteer information to his government without expectation of pay or favor, and the CIA will continue to welcome information provided by individuals under these conditions.

I am confident that these facts will help clarify your interpretation of this aspect of the conduct of U.S. intelligence services. You may also wish to refer to the statement in the U.S. Senate by Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon (recorded on p. S7901 et seq. of the Congressional Record of May 25, 1976).

Thank you for sharing your views with me.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush  
Director

AFalkiewicz (19 July)

1-DCI Jennifer

1-ER

1-A/DCI

1-DDO

1-DOCI

STAT